

benefits for their families, and without the skilled behavioral health resources to keep pace with the toll that repeated deployments would eventually take. General Lowenberg pushed for improved Guard member access to TRICARE and VA benefits, and to make sure that Guard members and members of the Reserve component have improved access to the behavioral health specialists they need while they are on inactive duty or on annual training.

When these Guard members came back from deployment, they came home to a country that was well intentioned but not well prepared to receive them. When Washington Guard members began returning from their first deployments to Iraq, unemployment for some units was extremely high. I have never accepted the premise that it is acceptable for servicemembers who have sacrificed so much to return home from deployment and struggle to find work to support their families, and neither has General Lowenberg. General Lowenberg fought for funding for the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration program and to expand efforts such as the Washington State Joint Services Support Directorate, J9, program to help more Guard members find employment. The positive impact from these programs helped the men and women of the Washington Guard find stable work and these efforts became such a success that the lessons from these programs have spread throughout the country. Members of the Washington Guard now boast an unemployment rate below the national average and the work that General Lowenberg put into reducing Guard unemployment laid the foundation for my VOW to Hire Heroes Act and other efforts to help veterans access secure employment, including overhauling the Transition Assistance program for the first time in 20 years and making it mandatory.

These changes to National Guard since 1999 have been historic, but General Lowenberg has always maintained the ability to understand what is important. Out of all the memories I have of General Lowenberg, the ones that will stay with me the longest are from the catastrophic flooding that hit Washington in January 2009. The Washington State flood of 2009 caused the biggest urban evacuation in the history of the State, and I cannot begin to describe the scene that I witnessed out of the back of a Chinook as General Lowenberg and I surveyed the damage. That flood broke levees, shut down Interstate 5, and compromised the integrity of Howard Hanson Dam. Through all of that chaos and the lengthy effort to move Federal funding to repair the Howard Hanson Dam, General Lowenberg directed relief, recovery operations, and preparedness efforts with an unparalleled understanding of emergency management that didn't ignore the effects that flood and damaged dam had on small communities and individuals. Under Gen-

eral Lowenberg, Washington State had the best possible leadership for these and other demanding situations.

I join the people of Washington State in congratulating General Lowenberg on an impressive career, and I look forward to seeing what he will accomplish in what I know will be an active retirement.

General Lowenberg, thank you for your service. You will be missed. ●

REPORT ON THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY THAT WAS ORIGINALLY DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13441 WITH RESPECT TO LEBANON—PM 59

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency declared with respect to the actions of certain persons to undermine the sovereignty of Lebanon or its democratic processes and institutions is to continue in effect beyond August 1, 2012.

Certain ongoing activities, such as continuing arms transfers to Hizballah that include increasingly sophisticated weapons systems, undermine Lebanese sovereignty, contribute to political and economic instability in the region, and continue to constitute an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared on August 1, 2007, to deal with that threat and the related measures adopted on that date to respond to the emergency.

BARACK OBAMA.
THE WHITE HOUSE, July 24, 2012.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:18 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 1335. An act to amend title 49, United States Code, to provide rights for pilots, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, in

which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1237. An act to provide for a land exchange with the Trinity Public Utilities District of Trinity County, California, involving the transfer of land to the Bureau of Land Management and the Six Rivers National Forest in exchange for National Forest System land in the Shasta-Trinity National Forest, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1369. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1021 Pennsylvania Avenue in Hartshorne, Oklahoma, as the "Warren Lindley Post Office".

H.R. 2467. An act to take certain Federal lands in Mono County, California, into trust for the benefit of the Bridgeport Indian Colony.

H.R. 2896. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 369 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive in Jersey City, New Jersey, as the "Judge Shirley A. Tolentino Post Office Building".

H.R. 3388. An act to mend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate a segment of the Beaver, Chipuxet, Queen, Wood, and Pawcatuck Rivers in the States of Connecticut and Rhode Island for study for potential addition to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3477. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 133 Hare Road in Crosby, Texas, as the Army First Sergeant David McNerney Post Office Building.

H.R. 3556. An act to designate the new United States courthouse in Buffalo, New York, as the "Robert H. Jackson United States Courthouse".

H.R. 3593. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 787 State Route 17M in Monroe, New York, as the "National Clandestine Service of the Central Intelligence Agency NCS Officer Gregg David Wenzel Memorial Post Office".

H.R. 3742. An act to designate the United States courthouse located at 100 North Church Street in Las Cruces, New Mexico, as the "Edwin L. Mechem United States Courthouse".

H.R. 3870. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6083 Highway 36 West in Rose Bud, Arkansas, as the "Nicky 'Nick' Daniel Bacon Post Office".

H.R. 4347. An act to designate the United States courthouse located at 709 West 9th Street in Juneau, Alaska, as the "Robert Booechever United States Courthouse".

H.R. 4484. An act to provide for the conveyance of a small parcel of National Forest System land in the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest in Utah to Brigham Young University, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5837. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 26 East Genesee Street in Baldwinsville, New York, as the "Corporal Kyle Schneider Post Office Building".

H.R. 5859. An act to repeal an obsolete provision in title 49, United States Code, requiring motor vehicle insurance cost reporting.

H.R. 5958. An act to name the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge Visitor Contact Station of the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge unit of Gateway National Recreation Area in honor of James L. Buckley.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The message further announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 2527. An act to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in recognition and celebration of the National Baseball Hall of Fame.